



State of California
The Natural Resources Agency
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

| | | | |
|-------------------------|--|---------------|----------------|
| PROJECT TITLE | Warner Springs FFS Metal Storage Building Project | | |
| PROJECT LOCATION | 31049 Highway 79 Warner Springs, CA 92086 N1/2 of SW1/4, Section 26, T10S, R3E, SBBM | COUNTY | San Diego |
| LEAD AGENCY | California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) | | |
| CONTACT | Pete Scully CAL FIRE – Monte Vista Headquarters | | |
| ADDRESS | Pre-Fire/Resource Management Office 2249 Jamacha Rd El Cajon, CA 92019 | PHONE | (619) 743-5530 |

This project proposes the placement one 24-foot wide by 48-foot long by 16-foot high metal storage building with an electrical service connection and 70-foot long by 16-foot wide concrete approach apron. Project is on flat, previously disturbed station grounds located behind of the existing station infrastructure. Work includes minor leveling of grounds, excavation of 144-feet of building footings, forming and steel rebar placement, placement of 66 yards of transit mix concrete, 45-feet of trenching for electrical service connection and construction of metal building on concrete slab.

All work will take place on Cal Fire owned lands and will be performed by contractors under supervision of local Unit Cal Fire Staff. Mechanized equipment including loader and backhoe will be supplied by contractor.

The Warner Springs FFS is located on a 4-acre parcel at 31049 California Highway 79, Warner Springs, California approximately 30 miles southeast of Temecula and approximately .5-miles south of the small community of Warner Springs. There are also isolated residences and ranches scattered throughout the area. The Warner Springs FFS facility consists of Barracks/office building, apparatus building, auxiliary structure and generator building.

EXEMPTION STATUS

- | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Categorical Exemption | Type/Section: Class 1 and 4 | 15301, Existing Facilities |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Statutory Exemption (state code section): | | 15304, Minor Alterations to Land |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Ministerial (§21080(b)(1); 15268) | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Declared Emergency (§21080(b)(3); 15269(a)) | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Emergency Project (§21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c)) | | |

REASONS PROJECT IS EXEMPT

This project is contained within the descriptions of two Categorical Exemptions listed in the CEQA Guidelines: Class 1 pertaining to repair of existing facilities, and Class 4 pertaining to minor alterations to land. After completing an environmental analysis, the Department has determined this project will have no significant impact on the environment. This determination is based on field assessments, a CNDDB search, greenhouse gas emission calculations, and archaeological review completed by CAL FIRE Archaeological staff.

Field review by CAL FIRE staff confirmed that no exceptions apply which would preclude the use of a Notice of Exemption for this project. The Department has concluded that no significant environmental impact would occur to aesthetics, agriculture and forestland/timberland, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, geology and soils, greenhouse gas emissions, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology and water quality, land use planning, mineral resources, noise, population and housing, public services, recreation, transportation/traffic, or to utilities and service systems. Documentation of the environmental review completed by the Department is retained on file at CAL FIRE MVU Headquarters in El Cajon.

DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

JUL 25 2019

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

Matthew Reischman, Assistant Deputy Director
Resource Protection and Improvement

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

7/24/19

Date

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2008-01-01



California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection Environmental Review Report for an Exempt Project

Note: This report form is intended for use by California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) staff to document a limited environmental impact analysis supporting the filing of a Notice of Exemption (NOE) document for a proposed CAL FIRE project. Although the project appears to fit within the descriptions for allowable Categorical Exemptions, this report presents CAL FIRE's review for possible "Exceptions" that would preclude finding the project to be categorically exempt as discussed in CEQA Guidelines Section 15300.2. This report will be filed with the CEQA administrative record for this project to document the environmental impact analysis conducted by the Department.

Author: Pete Scully
Title: RA Battalion Chief
Address: 2249 Jamacha Road, El Cajon, CA 92019
Phone: (619) 743-5530
Email: pete.scully@fire.ca.gov

Project Name: Warner Springs FFS Metal Storage Building
Project Number: MVU-2019-005
Program Type: New Construction
CAL FIRE Unit: MVU
County: San Diego
Acres (miles): < .01 acres
Legal Location: Portion of San Jose Del Valley Spanish Land Grant. Projected as NE 1/4, SW 1/4, Section 26, T 10S, R 3E, SBBM
Name of USGS 7.5' Quad Map(s): Warner Springs

Other Public Agency Review/Permit Required:

Would the project result in:

- alterations to a watercourse (DFG - Lake and Stream Alteration Agreement)
- conversion of timberland (CAL FIRE - Conversion Permit or Exemption)
- demolition (Local Air District - Demolition Permit)
- soil disturbance over 1 acre (RWQCB - SWPPP)
- fill of possible wetlands (404 Permit - USACE)
- other:

YES

☐
☐
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☐

NO

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☒

Discuss any above-listed topic item checked Yes and consultation with agencies:

Project Description and Environmental Setting (Describe the project activities, project site and its surroundings, its location, and the environmental setting):

This project proposes the placement one 24-foot wide by 48-foot long by 16-foot high metal storage building with an electrical service connection and 70-foot long by 16-foot wide concrete approach apron. Project is on flat, previously disturbed station grounds located behind the existing station infrastructure.

Project activities include:

- Minor leveling of existing grounds with less than 5 yards of soil movement.
- Excavation of 144-feet of building support footing 12-inches wide by 24-inches deep with spoils to be spread on site.
- Placement of wood form boards and metal reinforcing bars.
- Excavation of 24-inch deep by 12-inch wide by 45-foot long trench, placement of 2-inch conduit and backfill of trench.
- Placement and finishing of 66 yards of transit mix concrete.
- Erection of 24-foot by 48-foot metal building to be completed by contractor.
- Connection of 50-amp electrical service from existing generator building to new metal building.

All work will take place on Cal Fire owned lands and will be performed by contractors under supervision of local Unit Cal Fire Staff. Mechanized equipment including loader and backhoe will be supplied by contractor. The Warner Springs FFS is located on a 4-acre parcel at 31049 California Highway 79, Warner Springs, California approximately 30 miles southeast of Temecula and approximately .5-miles south of the small community of Warner Springs. There are also isolated residences and ranches scattered throughout the area. The Warner Springs FFS facility consists of Barracks/office building, apparatus building, auxiliary structure and generator building.

Environmental Impact Analysis

Aesthetics

- ☐ This topic does not apply to this project and was not evaluated further.
☒ This topic could apply to this project, and results of the assessment are provided below:

This project involves the placement of a 24-foot by 48-foot metal storage building with 70-foot long by 16-foot wide concrete approach apron and electrical service connection at the Warner Springs FFS. New building will match existing station infrastructure and will not be visible to the public due to the location to the rear of existing buildings and remote location. This project will not significantly alter the existing public view. Based on the above it has been determined the project will not have significant impact on aesthetics.

Agriculture and Forest Resources

- ☒ This topic does not apply to this project and was not evaluated further.
☐ Yes ☒ No Would any trees be felled? If yes, discuss protection of nesting birds and compliance with FPRs.
☐ Yes ☒ No Would the project convert any prime or unique farmland?
☐ Yes ☒ No Would the project result in the conversion of forest land/timberland to non-forest use?

- ☐ This topic could apply to this project, and results of the assessment are provided below:

These areas do not meet the definition of timberland under the California Forest Practice Rules. There will be no impact to agriculture or forest resources as a result of this project. No trees will be removed by this project. This project will have no impact on Agriculture or Forest Resources.

Air Quality

- ☐ This topic does not apply to this project and was not evaluated further.
☒ Yes ☐ No The local Air Quality Management District guidelines for dust abatement and other air quality concerns were reviewed for this project.
☒ This topic could apply to this project, and results of the assessment are provided below:

This project involves the placement of a 24-foot by 48-foot metal building on concrete pad with 70-foot long by 16-foot wide concrete approach apron and electrical service connection. Movement, replacement and compaction of soils to facilitate the above, will create a potential for dust production. To avoid the possibility of dust generation and to ensure proper compaction, water will be on site and appropriately applied whenever soil disturbance takes place. Contractor provided mechanized fuel powered equipment will be used to facilitate this project. This includes staff and contractor vehicles and a diesel loader and backhoe. The project will take approximately 10 days to complete. The limited duration and limited use of construction equipment will not create a significant impact on air quality.

Biological Resources

- ☐ This topic does not apply to this project and was not evaluated further.
☐ Yes ☒ No Will the project potentially effect biological resources?
☒ Yes ☐ No Was a current NDDB review completed? Results discussed below:
☐ Yes ☒ No Was a biological survey of the project area completed? Results discussed below:
☒ This topic could apply to this project, and results of the assessment are provided below:

A query of CDFW's California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB) ArcGIS 10.1, BIOS, and RareFind 5 data was conducted on July 18, 2019. Species identified through the CNDDDB included plants (CNPS List 1B and higher) and animals (Federal and State listed and special status species) that occur with the project boundaries and surrounding area to .5 miles from the project locations. The results of this search yielded 2 species of animals listed as endangered, and 1 plant species listed as endangered. None of these are located within the project boundary but do occur within the .5-mile buffer. The results of this search and the biological assessment for any of these species to be potentially impacted by this project are included in the attached Table 1: Biological Assessment for Warner Springs FFS Metal Storage Building Project, San Diego County, CA. Based on these findings and due to all work being conducted on previously disturbed areas completely void of vegetation (dirt parking and open areas), CAL FIRE staff determined that adverse impacts to any biological resources are unlikely to occur as a result of this project.

Table 1: Biological Assessment for Warner Springs FFS Metal Storage Building Project,

San Diego County, CA.

| | Scientific Name | Common Name | Federal Status | State Status | CDF W Status | CA Rare Plant Rank | Habitat | Analysis |
|---------|---|------------------------------------|----------------|--------------|--------------|--------------------|--|---|
| Animals | <i>Anniella stebbinsi</i> | southern California legless lizard | None | None | SSC | NA | Broadleaved upland forest Chaparral Coastal dunes Coastal scrub | Project is all on disturbed soil within compound area, habitat is not present in or adjacent to project |
| | <i>Dipodomys stephensi</i> | Stephen's kangaroo rat | Endangered | Threatened | SSC | NA | Primarily annual & perennial grasslands, but also occurs in coastal scrub & sagebrush with sparse canopy cover | Project is all on disturbed soil within compound area, habitat is not present in or adjacent to project |
| | <i>Arizona elegans occidentalis</i> | California glossy snake | None | None | SSC | NA | Generalist reported from a range of scrub and grassland habitats, often with loose or sandy soils | Project is all on disturbed soil within compound area, habitat is not present in or adjacent to project |
| | <i>Bombus crotchii</i> | Crotch bumble bee | None | None | None | NA | Food plant genera include Antirrhinum, Phacelia, Clarkia, Dendromecon, Eschscholzia, and Eriogonum | Project is all on disturbed soil within compound area, habitat is not present in or adjacent to project |
| | <i>Spea hammondii</i> | western spadefoot | None | None | SSC | NA | Cismontane woodland Coastal scrub Valley & foothill grassland Vernal pool | Project is all on disturbed soil within compound area, habitat is not present in or adjacent to project |
| | <i>Vireo bellii pusillus</i> | least Bell's vireo | Endangered | Endangered | NA | NA | Riparian forest Riparian scrub Riparian woodland | Project is all on disturbed soil within compound area, habitat is not present in or adjacent to project |
| Plants | <i>Calochortus palmeri</i> var. <i>munzii</i> | San Jacinto mariposa-lily | None | None | None | 1B.2 | Chaparral Lower montane coniferous forest Meadow & seep | Project is all on disturbed soil within compound area, habitat is not present in or adjacent to project |
| | <i>Eriogonum evanidum</i> | vanishing wild buckwheat | None | None | None | 1B.1 | Chaparral Cismontane woodland Lower montane coniferous forest Pinon & juniper woodlands | Project is all on disturbed soil within compound area, habitat is not present in or adjacent to project |
| | <i>Linanthus orcuttii</i> | Orcutt's linanthus | None | None | None | 1B.3 | Chaparral Lower montane coniferous forest Pinon & juniper woodlands | Project is all on disturbed soil within compound area, habitat is not present in or adjacent to project |
| | <i>Orcuttia californica</i> | California Orcutt grass | Endangered | Endangered | NA | 1B.1 | Vernal pool Wetland | Project is all on disturbed soil within compound area, habitat is not present in or adjacent to project |

Geology and Soils

- ☐ This topic does not apply to this project and was not evaluated further.
- ☒ This topic could apply to this project, and results of the assessment are provided below:

The project does not expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving rupture of a known earthquake fault, strong ground shaking, ground failure or landslides. The Warner Springs FFS is not located near a fault zone and is identified as a moderate to low shake areas in the event of an earthquake.

Additionally, the project is not located on a geologic unit or soils that are unstable or that would become unstable as a result of the proposed project, nor will the project have an impact with regard to expansive soils.

The construction of the metal building will require temporary soil disturbance. CAL FIRE will ensure that proper storm water Best Management Practices (BMP's) are implemented to avoid any erosion during project construction. The project will not result in significant impacts on geology or soils.

Cultural Resources

- ☐ This topic does not apply to this project and was not evaluated further.
- ☐ Yes ☒ No Was a current archaeological records check completed? Results discussed below:
- ☒ Yes ☐ No Was a CAL FIRE Staff or Contract Archaeologist consulted? Results discussed below:
- ☒ Yes ☐ No Was an archaeological survey of the project area completed? Results discussed below:
- ☐ Yes ☒ No Will the project effect any historic buildings or archaeological site?
- ☒ This topic could apply to this project, and results of the assessment are provided below:

An archaeological survey of the project area at Warner Springs FFS was conducted by CAL FIRE staff on July 11, 2019 and field survey yielded negative results. No evidence of prehistoric or historic activity was observed within or near the project boundaries. CAL FIRE Senior Archaeologist, Larrynn Carver has reviewed the project and determined that the project would have no impacts to cultural resources based on the negative results of the surveys conducted by staff. A letter was placed in the project file stating these findings.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions

- ☐ This topic does not apply to this project and was not evaluated further.
- ☐ Yes ☒ No Would the project generate significant greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions?
- ☐ Yes ☒ No Would these GHG emissions result in a significant impact on the environment? Discuss below:
- ☐ Yes ☒ No Would the project conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases? Discuss below:

GHG emissions calculations were based on estimates of total fossil fuel consumption by motorized equipment required for facilitation of this project. Estimates were based on high end usage projections. Conversion factors utilized were obtained from the California Climate Action Register (CCAR) General Reporting Protocol (CCAR 2009). The Results are detailed below: Total CO₂e produced under the scope of this project this will result in net release of 4.22 metric tons of CO₂e.

| Green House Gas Emissions (GHG) Calculation Worksheet | | | |
|---|-------------|-------|--------------|
| | MILES | MPG | GAL. OF FUEL |
| Staff vehicle - Gas | 780 | 15 | 52.00 |
| Contractor Vehicle-Gas | 450 | 10 | 45.00 |
| Contractor Vehicle-Diesel | 450 | 10 | 45.00 |
| Cement Delivery-Diesel | 990 | 10 | 99.00 |
| Material Delivery-Diesel | 280 | 10 | 28.00 |
| | HOURS | GPH | GAL. OF FUEL |
| Backhoe-Diesel | 16 | 5 | 80.00 |
| Loader -Diesel | 16 | 5 | 80.00 |
| Misc. Hand Held-Gas | 8 | 2 | 16.00 |
| | | CF | KILOGRAMS |
| Total Gasoline Consumption | 113.00 | 8.18 | 924.34 |
| Total Diesel Consumption | 325.00 | 10.15 | 3298.75 |
| Total Metric Tons CO ₂ e - Gas | .92 | | |
| Total Metric Tons CO ₂ e - Diesel | 3.30 | | |
| Total Metric Tons CO₂e | 4.22 | | |

The significance threshold CAL FIRE used to determine significance is thresholds established by the California Air Pollution Control Officers Association is 900 tons/yr. for indirect sources (combined construction and operational emissions). Based upon this threshold, impacts to greenhouse gas emissions are less than significant.

Hazards and Hazardous Materials

- ☒ This topic does not apply to this project and was not evaluated further.
☐ This topic could apply to this project, and results of the assessment are provided below:

This project involves the placement of a 24-foot by 48-foot metal building on concrete pad with 70-foot long by 16-foot wide concrete approach apron and electrical service connection at the Warner Springs FFS. Project location is on previously disturbed parking and open areas within the existing station compound and is not on or near a listed hazardous materials site, will not result in creating a hazard to the public through the routine transport, use, or disposal of any hazardous materials or release hazardous materials into the environment. The project site is not located within an airport land use plan or within the vicinity of a private airstrip and will not interfere with an emergency response plan. Placement of this metal storage building will not create a significant impact with regard to hazards and hazardous materials.

Hydrology and Water Quality

- ☐ This topic does not apply to this project and was not evaluated further.
☐ Yes ☒ No Will the project potentially affect any watercourse or body of water?
☒ This topic could apply to this project, and results of the assessment are provided below:

Project implementation will have no impact on local ground water tables or result in an increase in water usage. The project will not result in any additional run-off and BMP's shall be employed during project work to minimize to a less than significant level any storm water run-off or soil erosion should a heavy rain storm occur. This project will not have an effect on current or future hydrology or water quality.

Land Use and Planning

- ☒ This topic does not apply to this project and was not evaluated further.
☐ This topic could apply to this project, and results of the assessment are provided below:

This project will not have an effect on current or future land use and planning.

Mineral Resources

- ☒ This topic does not apply to this project and was not evaluated further.
☐ This topic could apply to this project, and results of the assessment are provided below:

This project will have no impacts to mineral resources.

Noise

- ☐ This topic does not apply to this project and was not evaluated further.
☒ This topic could apply to this project, and results of the assessment are provided below:

This project will utilize contractor supplied mechanized equipment (loader and backhoe) and contract personal to complete proposed work. Additionally, cement transport trucks will deliver concrete to the site and contractor will utilize powered hand tools in the erection of the prefabricated buildings. Work will occur Monday-Friday 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM and noise levels are expected to be consistent with a single piece of mechanized equipment operating at any one time and is for a limited time. Once completed noise levels will return to pre-project levels. There will be no significant impacts from the noise generated by this project.

Population and Housing

- ☒ This topic does not apply to this project and was not evaluated further.
☐ This topic could apply to this project, and results of the assessment are provided below:

This project will have no effect on population or housing.

Public Services

- ☒ This topic does not apply to this project and was not evaluated further.
☐ This topic could apply to this project, and results of the assessment are provided below:

This project will have no adverse effects on public services.

Recreation

- ☒ This topic does not apply to this project and was not evaluated further.
☐ This topic could apply to this project, and results of the assessment are provided below:

This project will have no impact to recreation.

Transportation/Traffic

- ☐ This topic does not apply to this project and was not evaluated further.
☒ This topic could apply to this project, and results of the assessment are provided below:

Site preparation and erection of the metal building will require contract employees to commute to and from the project each day (approximately 10 working days). Concrete will be delivered via transit truck and will require travel from batch plant to site and return, estimate is nine round trips. All vehicles and construction equipment used during project construction would access the Warner Springs FFS site via Highways 76 or 78 and 79. The project would not conflict with any applicable plan, or policy establishing service level standards as the transportation system has adequate capacity.

The vehicle trips created by the proposed project will not create a significant impact on transportation and traffic as the traffic generated is not substantial and is of limited duration.

Utilities and Service Systems

- ☐ This topic does not apply to this project and was not evaluated further.
☒ This topic could apply to this project, and results of the assessment are provided below:

This project involves the placement of a 24-foot by 48-foot metal building on concrete pad with 70-foot long by 16-foot wide concrete approach apron and electrical service connection at the Warner Springs FFS and will not result in any increase of waste water volume, require or result in the construction of new storm water drainage facilities or expansion of existing ones. Net water draw from area aquifers will remain unchanged. This project will have no impact on existing municipal utilities or services.

Changes Made to Avoid Environmental Impacts:

Best management practices, including dust abatement and erosion control devices consistent with minor soil disturbance have been incorporated into the design of this project. There are no known cultural or biological concerns present within the project area.

| Mandatory Findings of Significance: | YES | NO |
|--|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| (a) Does the project have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment; substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal, or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| (b) Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? ("Cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probably future projects) | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| (c) Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

Justification for Use of a Categorical Exemption (discuss why the project is exempt, cite exemption number(s), and describe how the project fits the class):

The project is consistent with two Categorical Exemptions: 15303, Class 3 New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures and 15304, Class 4 Minor Alterations to Land. This project will encompass the placement of a 24-foot by 48-foot metal building on concrete pad with 70-foot long by 24-foot wide concrete approach apron and electrical service connection at the Warner Springs FFS. All of these activities are consistent with the exemptions listed above.

Conclusion:

☒ After assessing potential environmental impacts and evaluating the description for the various classes of Categorical Exemptions to CEQA, CAL FIRE has determined that the project fits within one or more of the exemption classes and no exceptions exist at the project site which would preclude the use of this exemption. The Department considered the possibility of (a) sensitive location, (b) cumulative impact, (c) significant impact due to unusual circumstances, (d) impacts to scenic highways, (e) activities within a hazardous waste site, and (f) significant adverse change to the significance of a historical resource. A Notice of Exemption will be filed at the State Clearinghouse.

☐ After assessing potential environmental impacts and evaluating the description for the various classes of Categorical Exemptions to CEQA, CAL FIRE has determined that the project does not fit within the description for the various exemption classes or has found that exceptions exist at the project site which precludes the use of a Categorical Exemption for this project. Additional environmental review will be conducted and the appropriate CEQA document used may be a Negative Declaration or a Mitigated Negative Declaration.

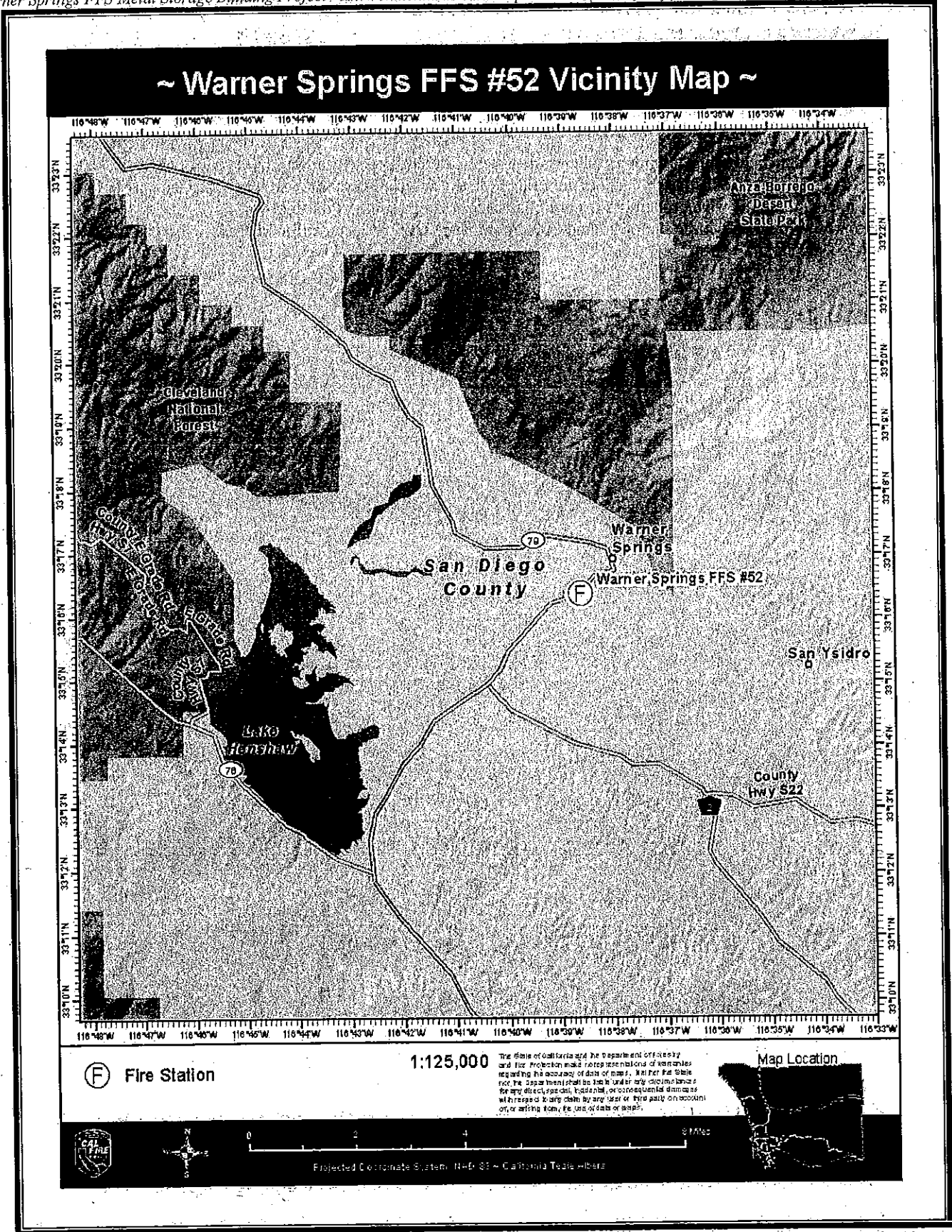


Figure 1. Project Locator Map for Warner Springs FFS Metal Storage Building Project, showing general location of project within San Diego County.

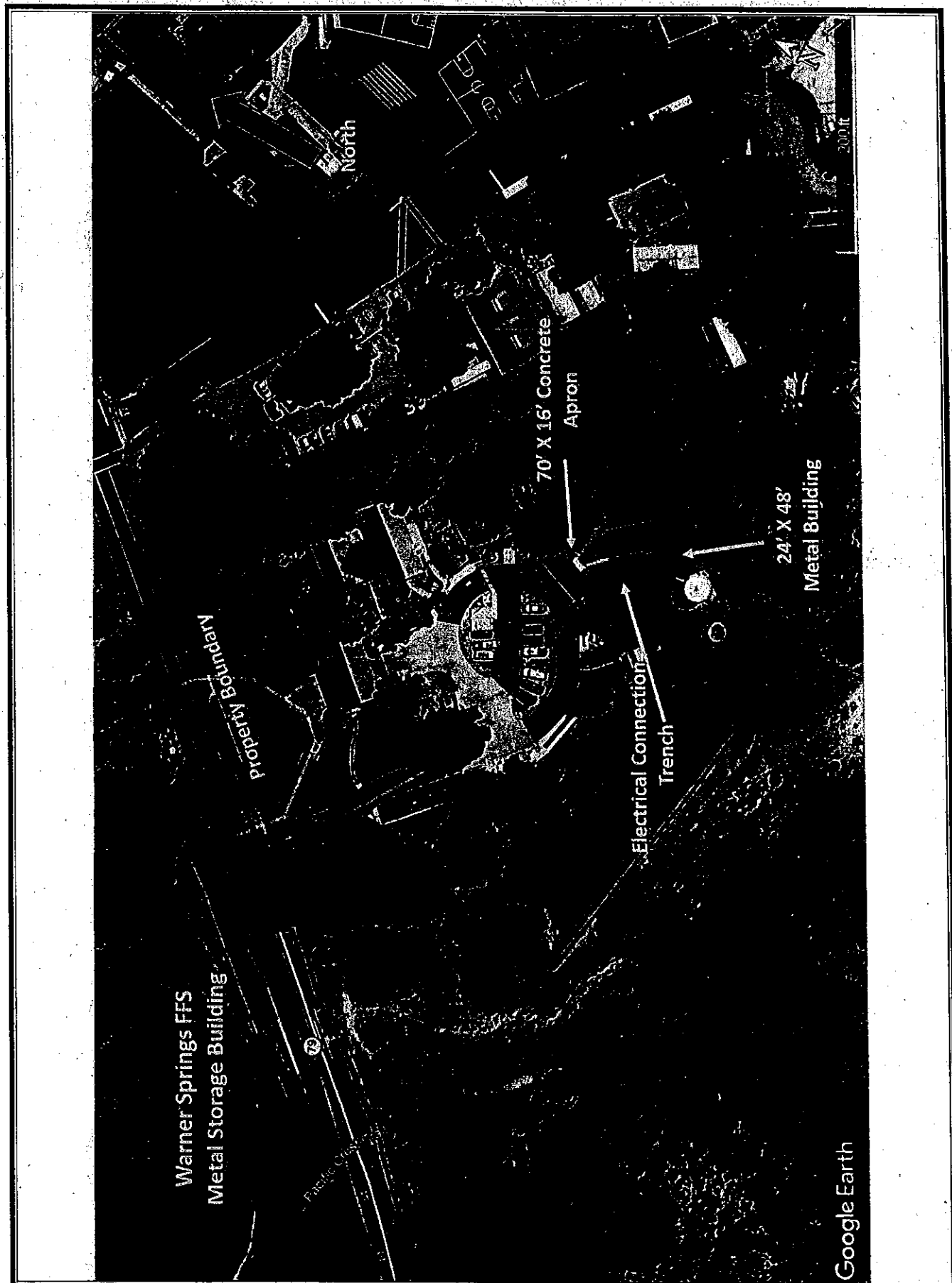


Figure 3: Detail Illustration of Metal Storage Building and apron location at Warner Springs FFS on Google Earth Photo.

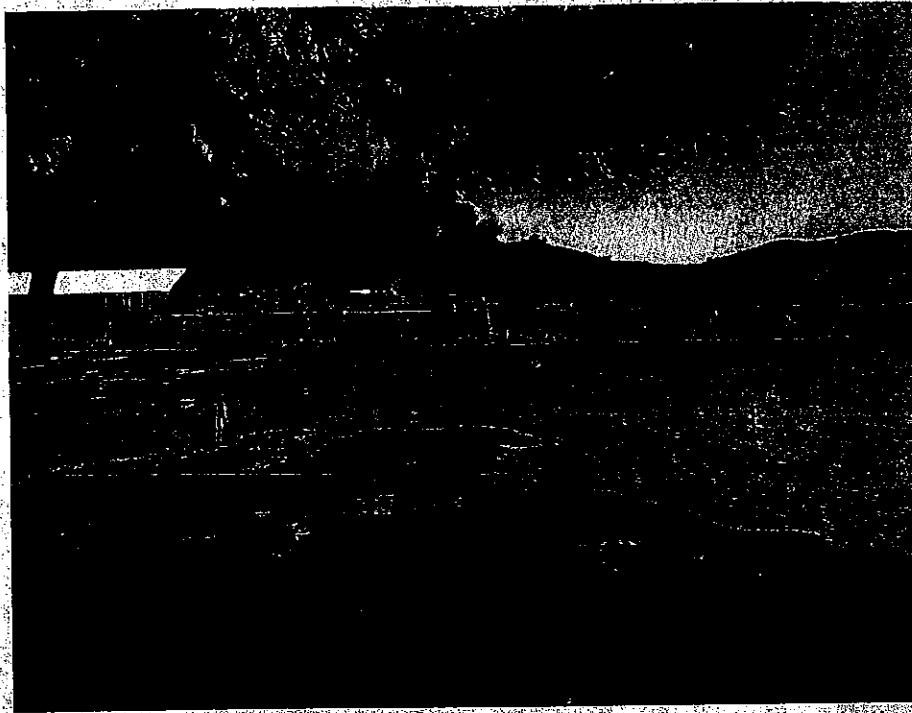


Photo #1: Looking east across location where building will be placed. Flags indicate rough location of building corners.

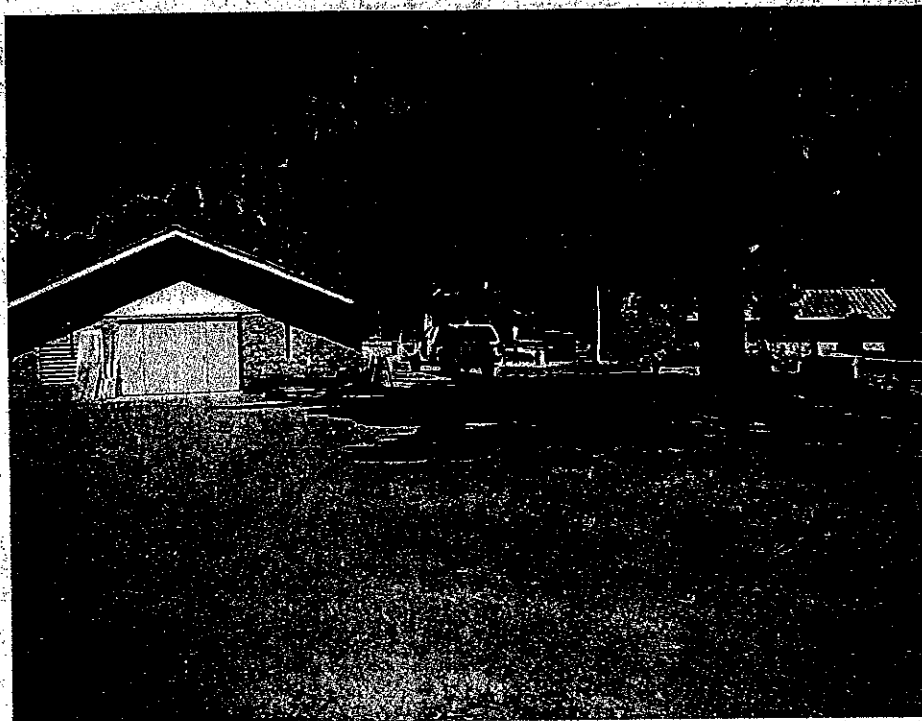


Photo #2: Looking west from building site across location of concrete apron. Truck in distance is parked at apron termination.

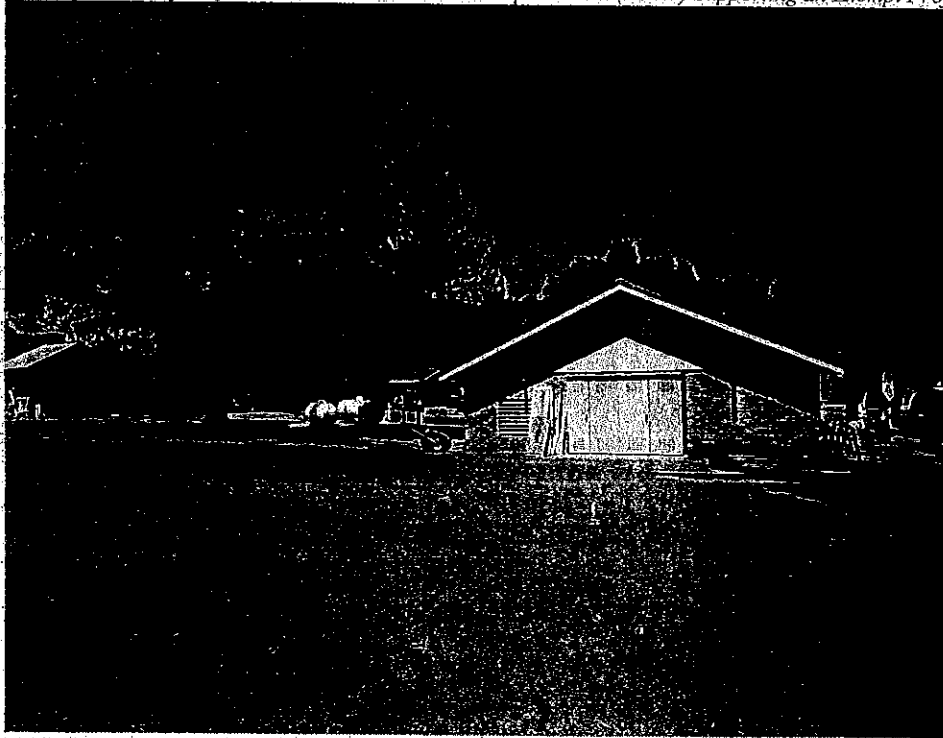


Photo #3: looking from building location west toward generator building where electrical connection will be made.

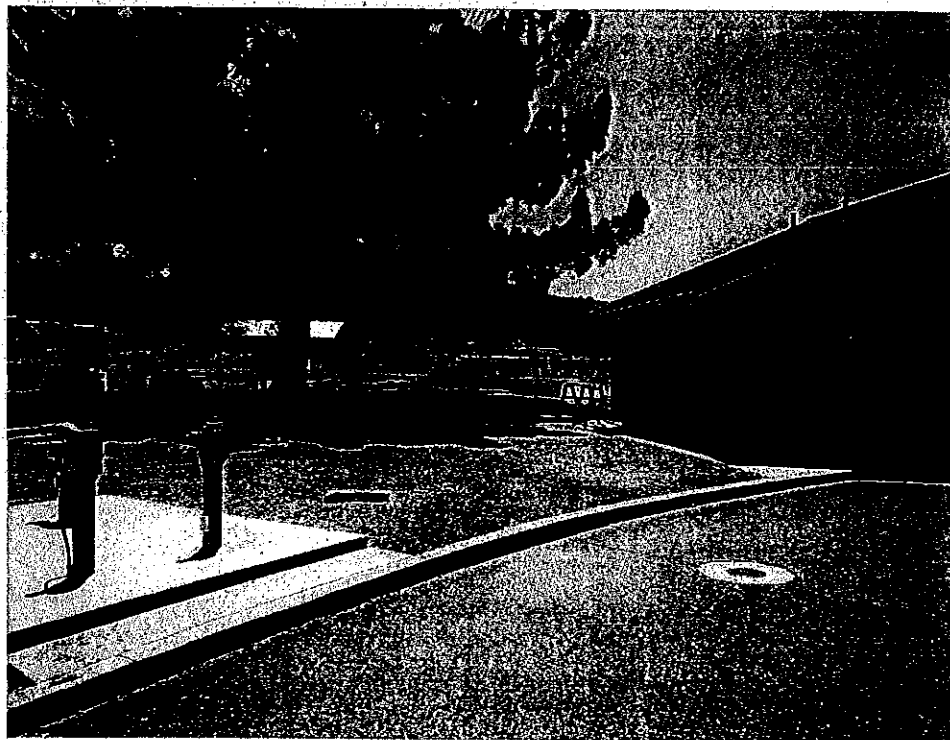


Photo #4: Looking east from existing driveway area. Concrete apron will commence between generator building and sprinkler PI valves in foreground.

